



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



March 2004

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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### OHIO, North

OHZ003-006>014-  
017>023-027>033-  
036>038-047

Lucas - Wood - Ottawa - Sandusky - Erie - Lorain - Cuyahoga - Lake - Geauga - Ashtabula - Hancock - Seneca - Huron -  
Medina - Summit - Portage - Trumbull - Wyandot - Crawford - Richland - Ashland - Wayne - Stark - Mahoning - Marion -  
Morrow - Holmes - Knox

05	1230EST 1700EST	0	1	2.4M	High Wind (MG52)
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Strong low pressure passed to the north of Lake Erie. An associated occluded front stretching south from the low moved across northern Ohio during the morning of March 5th. Very strong and gusty southwesterly winds occurred behind this front during the afternoon hours. Peak measured wind gusts include: 59 mph at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (Cuyahoga County); 59 mph at Mansfield Lahm Airport (Richland County); 59 mph at the Lorain County Airport; 53 mph at the Akron-Canton Airport (Summit County); 52 mph at the Wayne County Airport; 51 mph at the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport (Trumbull County); 51 mph at Findlay Airport (Hancock County); 49 mph at the Marion County Airport and 48 mph at Toledo Express Airport (Lucas County). Spotters measured a 60 mph gust in Bucyrus (Crawford County) and a 58 mph gust in Bowling Green (Wood County). Lorain County was especially hard hit with many homes damaged along and near Lake Erie. A police cruiser was hit by a falling tree in Amherst with the officer inside sustaining serious injuries. The roof of a retirement home in Sandusky County was torn off and a large business lost much of its roof in Cuyahoga County. Hundreds of homes throughout northern Ohio sustained varying amounts of damage. Tractor trailers were overturned in Wood and Ottawa counties. Dozens of utility poles and hundreds of trees were also toppled. At the peak of the storm, over 250,000 customers were without electric service.

OHZ013

Geauga

11	2300EST	0	0	50K	Heavy Snow
13	0000EST				

An arctic cold front moved across northeastern Ohio on March 11th. Precipitation associated with the front changed to snow during the late evening hours. Intense bands of lake effect snow affected Geauga County during the morning hours of the 12th. Thunder and lightning were observed in the northern portion of the county where up to 9 inches of snow fell. Lesser amounts were reported elsewhere in the county. Gusty westerly winds accompanied the snow and caused much blowing and drifting. The snow finally tapered off late on the 12th.

OHZ010>014-020>023-  
029>033-038-047

Lorain - Cuyahoga - Lake - Geauga - Ashtabula - Medina - Summit - Portage - Trumbull - Richland - Ashland - Wayne -  
Stark - Mahoning - Holmes - Knox

16	0130EST 2200EST	0	0	3.5M	Heavy Snow
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An area of strong low pressure moved northeast up the Ohio Valley spreading heavy, wet snow across the region. The snow spread from southwest to northeast across northern Ohio during the early morning hours of March 16th and continued through the early evening hours. At most locations, the heaviest snow fell during the morning and early afternoon hours when visibilities were reduced to near zero at times. Accumulations ranged from around 6 inches along and just west of Interstate 71 to more than 9 inches over much of Summit, Wayne and Portage counties. Late in the afternoon, winds switched from the east and northeast to north. This allowed Lake Erie to enhance the snowfall falling along the south shore of the lake. Whiteout conditions occurred in the Cleveland area during the afternoon rush hour. The lake enhancement pushed snowfall totals to over 10 inches in extreme northeastern Ohio. Officially, a total of 7.1 inches of snow was reported at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport with 6.4 inches at the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport. The heavy nature of the snow and gusty winds combined to cause very treacherous driving conditions. Significant travel delays and hundreds of accidents were reported.



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### PENNSYLVANIA, Northwest

PAZ001>003

Northern Erie - Southern Erie - Crawford

05 1300EST 0 0 225K High Wind (EG50)  
1800EST

Strong low pressure passed to the north of Lake Erie. An occluded front stretching south from the low moved across northwestern Pennsylvania during the late morning hours of March 5th. Very strong and gusty southwesterly winds occurred behind this front during the afternoon hours. Peak measured wind gusts include 51 mph at Meadville Airport (Crawford County) and 46 mph at Erie International Airport. Well over a dozen homes sustained varying amounts of damage. Dozens of utility poles and trees were downed across the area. At the peak of the storm, several thousand customers were without electric service.

PAZ002>003

Southern Erie - Crawford

12 0000EST 0 0 125K Heavy Snow  
13 0300EST

An arctic cold front moved across northwestern Pennsylvania on March 11th. Precipitation associated with the front changed from rain to snow around midnight on the 12th. Intense bands of lake effect snow affected portions of inland Erie County and much of northern Crawford County during the morning and afternoon hours. Total accumulations of 10 inches or more were reported in Erie County with 6 to 8 inches in northern Crawford County. Gusty westerly winds accompanied the snow causing much blowing and drifting. The snow finally tapered off early on the 13th.

PAZ001>003

Northern Erie - Southern Erie - Crawford

16 0330EST 0 0 900K Heavy Snow  
2330EST

An area of strong low pressure moved northeast up the Ohio Valley spreading heavy, wet snow across the region. The snow began in northwestern Pennsylvania during the early morning hours of the 16th and then continued through the late evening hours. Very heavy snow fell during the daylight hours with visibilities reduced to near zero at times. Accumulations by early afternoon were in excess of 10 inches at many locations with storm total accumulations of up to 18 inches reported. Officially, 16.1 inches of snow fell at Erie International Airport. The heavy nature of the snow and gusty winds combined to cause very treacherous driving conditions. Significant travel delays and hundreds of accidents were reported.